(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) 42.70 Km. length of National Highway No. 2 between Barwa-Adda and Barakar in Bihar is proposed to be converted to 4 lanes at an estimated cost of Rs. 127.89 crores. This work is to be executed by National Highway Authority of India and is at tender stage.

(c) and (d) The project involves acquisition of 63 acre of land Population to be affected, at KM 405/406 only, are 3 families (19 persons). Presumably, no population is affected in the remaining portion of the project.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) There is no provision in VIII Plan for the bypass on NH-2. Bypasses have been given low priority due to the scarcity of funds.

[*English*]

**Bridge on NH-35 in West Bengal**

4850. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction has been accorded to reconstruct the 'Nao Bhanga' Bridge on the NH–35, in the Bongaon PS of North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the project has since been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Construction of a new Nawbhasan bridge, at km. 56 of NH No. 35, in place of existing timber bridge, is included in the Annual Plan (1996-97) at a cost of Rs. 90 lakhs.

[*Translation*]

**Development Works in Cantonments**

4851. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to various cantonments for developmental works during the last three years in Rajasthan;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem pertaining to water supply and electricity in these cantonments; and

(c) the schemes of the Government to make these board effective and public service oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The amount provided by the Government by way of grants-in-aid during the last three years to the Cantonment Boards in Rajasthan to meet their normal expenditure including expenditure for developmental works is as under:-

| Year | Amount of Grant-in-aid (Rs. in Lacs) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Nasirabad | Ajmer |
| 1993-94 | 020.30 | 05.00 |
| 1994-95 | 134.50 | 17.00 |
| 1995-96 | 020.00 | 09.00 |

(b) and (c) The Cantonment Boards being statutory bodies governed under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924, undertake development works like roads, drains, water supply etc. from their own resources. Central Government provides only financial assistance to them by way of special grants wherever needed in the case of deficit Boards. Service charges are also paid to them in lieu of property tax in respect of Defence properties. The functioning of Boards is closely monitored by the Directorate of Defence Estates in the Commands and at Ministry level. Wherever necessary directives are issued by the Government through the Director General, Defence Estates for improving the functioning of the Boards. Government have also directed that as far as possible the amounts received by the Boards by way of service charges will be spent by them on development projects.

[*English*]

**Eradication of Illiteracy**

4852. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to eradicate illiteracy from India, by way of mass campaign as launched in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time frame of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b): The Kerala experience of the total literacy campaign, which was found replicable and adoptable by the National Literacy Mission, has been the principal strategy of the NLM for eradication of illiteracy throughout the country. As of date, total literacy campaigns are under implementation in 401 districts of the country.

The NLM, set up in May 1988, has the objective of making 100 million persons in 15-35 age-group literate by the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan. As of date, 56.10 million persons have been made literate under various adult education schemes of the NLM.